[Ibuki Satsuki's Comic Collection]

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RECOMMENDED
READING ORDER FOR
THE YIZHEN/NIANWU
PAIRING:

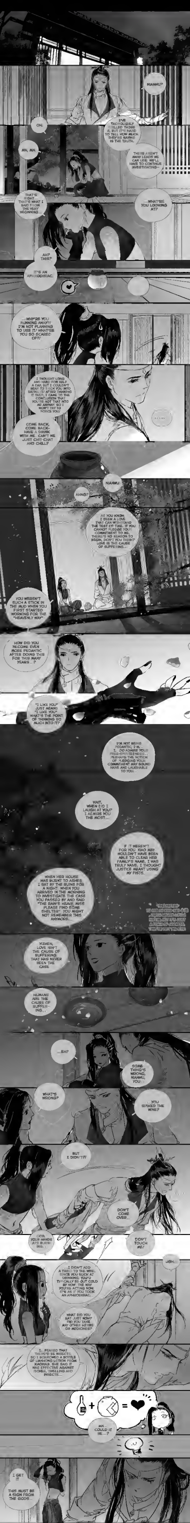
CH.106 & CH.107:
SIDE STORY:
LOFTY MOUNTAINS,
FLOWING WATERS
(1 & 2)

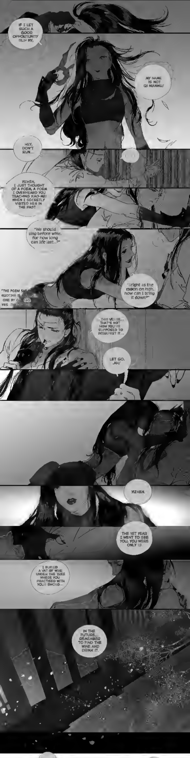
↓

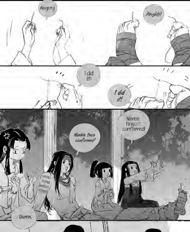
CH 118 & CH 119:
MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS
(10 & 11)

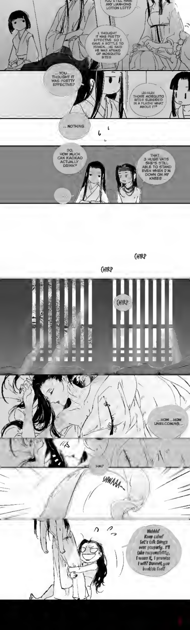
↓

CH. 137:
DOUBLE SEVENTH
FESTIVAL DRABBLE


NIANWU?
OH.
I'VE THOROUGHLY GRILLED THOSE 2, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL HOW MUCH THEY'RE SAYING IS THE TRUTH.
MN, MN.
THERE AREN'T MANY LEADS WE CAN USE. WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING--
THAT'S RIGHT... THAT'S WHAT I SAID FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...
...WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
AH? THIS?
IT'S AN APHRODISIAC.
...WHY'RE YOU RUNNING AWAY?! I'M NOT PLANNING TO USE IT! WHAT'RE YOU SO SCARED OF?!
I THOUGHT LONG AND HARD FOR HALF A DAY, BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO TRICK YOU INTO SAYING IT! AFTER THINKING IT OVER, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOU'RE NOT THAT INTO ME ANYWAY, SO I WON'T TRY TO FORCE YOU!
......
COME BACK, COME BACK- HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.. CAN'T WE JUST CHIT-CHAT AND CHILL?
NIANWU.
AHNG?
AS YOU KNOW, I SEEK A LOVE THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE TEST OF TIME. IF YOU CANNOT PLEDGE YOUR COMMITMENT TO ME, THERE'S NO REASON TO BEGIN, DON'T YOU THINK? LOVE IS THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING...
YOU WEREN'T SUCH A STICK IN THE MUD WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED WORKING FOR THE "HEAVENLY WAY"
HOW DID YOU BECOME EVEN MORE PEDANTIC AFTER DOING THIS FOR THIS MANY YEARS...?
"I LIKE YOU" JUST MEANS "I LIKE YOU" WHAT'S THE POINT OF THINKING SO MUCH INTO IT?
I'M NOT BEING PEDANTIC, I'M... I... DO ADMIRE YOUR FREE-SPIRITEDNESS... PERHAPS THE NOTION OF PLEDGING YOUR COMMITMENT MAY SOUND NAIVE AND LAUGHABLE TO YOU...
WAIT, WHEN DID I LAUGH AT YOU? I ADMIRE YOU THE MOST...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, XIAO MEI* WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR HER FAMILY'S NAME. I WAS TRULY NAIVE. I THOUGHT JUSTICE MEANT USING MY FISTS.
WHEN HER HOUSE WAS BURNT TO ASHES, I SAT BY THE RUINS FOR A NIGHT. WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN THE MORNING TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE, YOU PASSED BY AND SAID "THE RAIN'S HEAVY, MISS, PLEASE FIND SOME SHELTER". YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER THIS ANYMORE...
*SHE REFERS [illegible] AS [illegible] 小妹, WHICH MEANS LITTLE SISTER, BUT IT'S JUST A FORM OF ADDRESS. THEY'RE NOT RELATED
YIZHEN, LOVE ISN'T THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN THE CASE
HUMANS ARE THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING...
...EH?
SOMETHING'S WRONG, NIANWU, YOU...
WHAT'S WRONG?
...YOU SPIKED THE WINE?
BUT I DIDN'T?!
DON'T COME OVER...
GOD, YOUR HANDS ARE BURNING...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
UGH...
...I DIDN'T ADD A THING TO THE WINE, SINCE YOU SUCK AT DRINKING, YOU'D TYPICALLY BE OUT COLD BY NOW. THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING NOW, IT'S AS IF YOU TOOK AN APHRODISIAC...
WHAT DID YOU EAT JUST NOW? DID YOU TAKE ANY OTHER HERBS OR MEDICINES?
I... FEARED THAT THERE'D BE INSECTS, SO I BORROWED A BOTTLE OF LIANHONG LOTION FROM XIAOXIAO. SHE SAID IT WAS EFFECTIVE AGAINST ITCHES, SWELLING AND INSECTS...
+ = ❤
MN... COULD IT BE...?
I GET IT
THIS MUST BE A SIGN FROM THE GODS...


IF I LET SUCH A GOOD OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY,
MY NAME IS NOT QI NIANWU!
HEY, DON'T RUN...
YIZHEN, I JUST THOUGHT OF A POEM, A POEM I OVERHEARD YOU TEACHING XIAO-MEI WHEN I SECRETLY VISITED HER IN THE PAST
"We should sing before wine, for how long can life last...?"
"Bright as the moon on high, how can I bring it down?"
'THE POEM SH
QUOTING IS A
ONE BY CA CAO
YES.
THIS VERSE... THAT'S NOT HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO INTERPRET IT...
LET GO. AH!
YIZHEN.
THE 1ST YEAR I WENT TO SEE YOU, YOU WERE ONLY 19.
I BURIED A VAT OF WINE UNDER THE TREE WHERE YOU PRACTISED WITH YOUR SWORD...
IN THE FUTURE, REMEMBER TO FIND THE WINE AND DRINK IT.


Alrighty!
Alrighty!
I did it!
I did it!
Nimble fingers confirmed!
Nimble fingers confirmed!
HAND-SOME
...Damn.
COME TO THINK OF IT, AH-TUO, DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY LIANHONG LOTION LEFT?
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY EFFECTIVE SO I GAVE A BOTTLE TO YIZHEN... HE SAID HE WAS AFRAID OF MOSQUITO BITES
...YOU... THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY EFFECTIVE?
UH-HUH THOSE MOSQUITO BITES SUBSIDED IN A FLASH! WHAT ABOUT IT?
...NOTHING.
SO, HOW MUCH CAN XIAOXIAO ACTUALLY DRINK?
...
THAT 3 HUGE VATS SHE'S STILL ABLE TO STAND EVEN WHEN I'M DOWN ON MY KNEES


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
...HOW... HOW UNBECOMING...
HMP?
SHWAAA-
Wahhh! Keep calm! Let's talk things over properly. I'll take responsibility, I mean it, I promise I will! Dammit, you bookish fool!

Translator's Notes

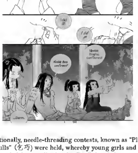
Double Seventh Festival (七夕节)

Alternatively known as the Magpie Festival, Qixi (7th Night) Festival, Seven Maidens' Festival or the Chinese Valentine's Day

Celebrated on the 7th day of the 7th Chinese lunar month, it has its origins in the mythical folktale of The Cowherd And The Weaver Maid. Since it's a story that was first recorded in the Classics of Poetry (诗经) over 2600 years ago, multiple variations exist, but the basic gist is that of a love story between Zhinü (织女), the weaver girl who's symbolized by the star Vega, and Niulang(牛郎), the cowherd who's symbolized by the star Altair An abridged version is as follows:

A human cowherd Niulang meets and falls in love with Zhinü, a fairy who was responsible for weaving clouds for the Gods. With the help of Niulang's cow (a demoted cattle god), the two of them marry, but this union angers the Gods because marriage between humans and immortals is a travesty. As punishment for their actions, the two are banished to opposite ends of the Heavens, where they'd be eternally separated by a river of stars (the Milky Way). However, their steadfast love moves the God of Heaven enough to allow them to meet once a year, on the 7th night of the 7th moon. And so, every year during this period, a flock of magpies forms a bridge to reunite the star-crossed lovers for a day

This festival was of special significance to unmarried maidens, who would make offerings to the Weaving Maid, patron goddess of women's work, and pray for a good husband and happy marriage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Alright!
I did it!
I did it!
Nimble fingers confirmed!
Nimble fingers confirmed!
...Damn.

Traditionally, needle-threading contests, known as "Pleading For Skills" (乞巧) were held, whereby young girls and women threaded fine needles by the dim light of the moon to determine one's dexterity in needlework and by extension, one's marriage prospects

The Cowherd and the Weaving Maid's story has been alluded to in many literary works, an example being this poem from Qin Guan, a notable poet from the Song Dynasty·

Immortals At The Magpie Bridge (鹊桥仙)

Translation by Xu Yuanchong

纤云弄巧，	Clouds float like works of art,
飞星传恨，	Stars shoot with grief at heart
银汉迢迢暗度。	Across the Milky Way the Cowherd meets the Maid
金风玉露一相逢，	When Autumn's Golden Wind embraces Dew of Jade,
便胜却人间无数。	All the love scenes on earth, however many, fade.
柔情似水，	Their tender love flows like a stream,
佳期如梦，	Their happy date seems but a dream
忍顾鹊桥归路。	How can they bear a separate homeward way?
两情若是久长时，	If love between both sides can last for aye,
又岂在朝朝暮暮！	Why need they stay together night and day?